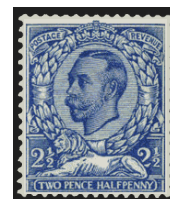


King George V - 'Downey Head' Issue.

On the death of King Edward VII on the 6th May 1910, his eldest living son became King George V. Two months later, in July 1910, the Postmaster General invited designs for a set of stamps for the new King. The selected designs for the frames, known as the 'Dolphin' and 'Lion' designs, were the work of George W Eve and Sir Bertram Mackennal.



Although a complete range of stamps was planned, only the ½d and 1d values were produced, both using a ¾ profile head taken from a photograph by Messrs W & D Downey. The original issue of the ½d and 1d stamps was on the day of King George V's Coronation, 22nd June 1911, a full year since becoming King. The 2½d trial in blue shown above is what could have been!

The original printings were somewhat blotchy, because the typographic printing process used was unsuitable for use with dies produced from a photographic image. In an attempt to rectify the problem the master die were deepened and fresh plates made, but the problem persisted. A final attempt at correction involved making a brand new master die (Die 2). Stamps printed using this new die were put on sale on 1st January 1912. The issue dates for the twelve possible die and watermark combinations, *ignoring colour shades*, are shown in the table below.

| | Die 1A | Die 1B (1A Deepened). | | Die 2 (New Master Die). | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Watermark > | Imperial Crown | Imperial Crown | Simple Cypher (Booklets) | Imperial Crown | Simple Cypher | Multiple Cypher |
| ½d | 22-6-1911 | ??? | Aug 1912 | 1-1-1912 | Aug 1912 | Oct 1912 |
| 1d | 22-6-1911 | 1911 | Aug 1912 | 1-1-1912 | Aug 1912 | Oct 1912 |



Die 1A



Die 1



Die 1B



Die 2

Beard well defined



Shaded Lion

½d - 3,474 Dies 1d - 4,102 Dies on 4,851 Different Dies

Perfin figures correct to *1st January 2019*.

Note that no attempt has been made to differentiate between the twelve variations when recording the Perfin dies, and in view of the large numbers involved, no list of Perfin dies has been included.